

Announcements.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

NOTICE.

GARDEN SEEDS.

SEASON 1888-9.

THE following SEEDS required for immediate sowing CAN BE SUPPLIED AT ONCE—
CELERY, CYCLAMEN, and CINERARIA.

Our First Shipment of Assorted VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SEEDS has arrived, and will be ready for delivery in a day or two.

Catalogues and Gardening Notes Free on application.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
Hongkong, 17th August, 1888.

BIRTHS.

On August 19th, at No. 10, Bellios Terrace, the wife of JAMES S. HAGEN, of a son. [810]

On July 13th, at Melita Cottage, Deany, Scotland, the wife of JAMES KIRKWOOD, Inspector of Machinery, Imperial Chinese Navy, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

At St. Francis Street, Wanchai, on the 17th instant, GUY MATTHEW SHIELLY, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, U.S.A., aged sixteen and a half years. [811]

At Upper Wilkie Road, Singapore, on Sunday, the 12th instant, NORWORTHY, the eldest son of Mr. Norworthy Pestonjee Hongkongwalla, of Singapore, aged 26 years.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1888.

TELEGRAMS.

(Ruter.)

EMIN PASHA.

LONDON, August 17th.

Emin Pasha has been shot.

THE PORTE AND ITALY.

A circular has been issued by the Porte declaring the Italian occupation of Massowah violation of the treaty.

(From Straits Times.)

THE PARNELL ENQUIRY BILL.

LONDON, August 18th.

A practical debate took place on the report of the Committee on the Parnell Enquiry Bill. Numerous amendments by the Irish members were all rejected.

August 10th.

The Parnell Inquiry Bill has passed the House of Commons, the Irish Members abstaining from voting.

THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE

POLITICAL SITUATION.

LONDON, August 18th.

Lord Salisbury at the Mansion House said that the Government will continue to rule Ireland firmly and to restore personal liberty; that the statesmen of Europe were beginning to favor the policy of leaving Bulgaria alone, England only desiring its freedom and autonomy. Lord Salisbury believes that Russia will be satisfied if Bulgaria prospers under existing circumstances; that the new German Emperor is fully alive to the value of peace, the prospects of which have been distinctly strengthened by his late interview with the Czar, and the assimilation of the policy of Russia and Germany.

Lord Salisbury concluded by eulogizing the Czar, who has always favoured peace, and expressed his opinion that the look out is more peaceful than it has been for many years.

THE COMMUNISTS IN PARIS.

PARIS, August 10th.

A great demonstration took place at the funeral of a Communist. The procession was headed by M. Rochefort, and followed by masses of men on strike. Red flags were displayed and during conflicts with the Police revolvers were fired.

A general charge was made by the Police and several persons were injured.

THE ZULU RISING.

LONDON, August 18th.

Dinulu and Undabuku have entered the Transvaal.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE Haiphong Dock Company will open its establishments on the 1st prox.

THE P. & O. Company's steamer *Kashgar*, from Bombay, left Singapore for this port on the 18th inst., at 5 p.m.

THE church is surely becoming scientific. During a recent sermon a clergyman said that Lot's lady was transformed into a "monolith of chloride of sodium."

THE "Mac" yarn, related by one of the *Daily Press* scribbles the other day as a genuine and original joke at the expense of Scotch engineers, is as old as "Granny" herself, and almost as feeble.

THE Siamese embassy to the Courts of France Spain and Portugal, arrived at Lisbon at the beginning of July last and was received by King Dom Luiz at Ajuda on the 8th. The embassy is composed of Minister Luang Val Chang and Secretaries C. M. Xavier and J. Whyke.

CONSIDERABLE excitement was caused on board an excursion steamer on the river Tay on the 14th July owing to the vessel having struck some sunken rocks and commenced to sink. Other steamers immediately rendered assistance, and the 800 or 900 passengers were removed in safety, but the vessel eventually became almost entirely submerged.

MESSRS. Russell & Co. inform us that the E. and A. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Airline* left Port Darwin for this port yesterday, and may be expected to arrive on the 28th inst.

M. LEREDU, a Surveyor of the Correspondances Division, has left Haiphong in company with M. Pavie, to institute soundings in the Black River and survey the rapids.

We read that a contract has been placed with a Greenock shipbuilding firm for the construction of four twin-screw steamers of 1,000 tons each, for trading between China and Australia.

A New York physician says that the guillotine is the most comfortable death. Every doctor should have one of these instruments in his consulting room and thereby save his patients much suffering.

THE Nordenfeldt Guns and Ammunition Co. lately resolved to amalgamate with the Maxim Gun Company. An hour after the prospectus had been issued, the capital required was subscribed for several times over.

THE *Correio Macaense* reports that a few hours before the transport India left Macao harbour on Sunday the 12th inst. for Timor and Lisbon, two African soldiers died on board and their remains were brought on shore and buried.

News from the neighbourhood of the Mayon volcano in the Philippines continues to be very discouraging. The damages done by the late eruption extended far and wide throughout the district, the crops were destroyed, cattle were killed by hundreds, and general poverty prevails everywhere.

CAPTAIN ANGOVE, the marine superintendent of the P. and O. Steamship Company, who was for several years commander of the *Poonah*, has received a commission of Honorary Commander in the Royal Naval Reserve. Captain Angove has for some time past taken great interest in that branch of the Naval service, and has in other ways rendered valuable assistance to the Government, especially in connection with the late Egyptian expeditions.

THE French Minister of War is about to make a sweeping reform of a matrimonial nature among the officers of the army. Hitherto no officer has been allowed to marry without his Colonel's consent and a certificate that his intended bride has a fortune of at least 20,000 francs. M. de Freycinet proposes to sweep away all these impediments and give the officers perfect freedom of choice. It is needless to say that the Frenchwomen, as well as the officers, are jubilant over the proposed change.

SARAH BERNHARDT has an antique girdle of medallions, on which are signs of the zodiac in superb chasing. The zone was a gift from Napoleon III., who received it from Abdallah Bey, of Egypt. She is never without it—sometimes it is worn about her dress, and sometimes around her neck. It holds the gathers of house and stage dresses, and always encircles her night-robes. Aside from the worship of the girdle she loves a knife, "because it cuts, and is true—cruelly true." In all great undertakings she keeps a blade in her hand or before her eyes as a reminder that failure may be mended, but never made perfect.

THE *L. & C. Express* states that the result of the election of the Rev. Griffith John, of Hankow, China, to the chairmanship of the Congregational Union for next year was officially communicated to that gentleman through the post. He at once replied by telegraph that it would be impossible for him to accept the honour. It is presumed, therefore, that Mr. John's missionary work will not permit of his leaving China for the present. This will occasion not a little disappointment, as a special departure was made by the assembly at its recent session with a view to his election, he not being a member of any home Congregational Church. It is not at all improbable that he will be elected for next year, when the work of translating the Scriptures into the Chinese language will be complete.

THE *Courier d'Haiphong* has the following concerning the forces stationed in Cochinchina and Tonquin:—"The Government aims at separating the military from the naval forces of Cochinchina and Tonquin, and to restore to the commanders of each of these forces the independence which they possessed previous to the creation of the Government-General of Indo-China. General of Division Bégin and Rear-Admiral de la Jaille will cease to be Commander-in-Chief of the troops of Indo-China, and Commander-in-Chief of the naval station respectively, both returning to France. The land forces will be under the orders of General Chanu in Cochinchina and Cambodia, and of General Bongor in Desbordes in Aquam and Tonquin. The naval forces will be re-constituted under the designation of Division of Tonquin and of Cochinchina, and will be under the independent commands of Captains Le Bourgeois and Pougin."

IN the House of Commons on July 10th, in reply to Mr. A. Baumann, member for Peckham—who has lately made himself conspicuous in attacking Governor Hennessy—Sir J. Gore said:—"It is proposed that Sir John Gore Hennessy shall return to Mauritius in October next. There is no rule or regulation defining the amount of leave of absence, whether with or without salary, which may be allowed to a colonial governor. The Secretary of State for the Colonies is responsible for making such arrangements as may be at once fair to the governor and not injurious to the public service. I may add that Sir John Gore Hennessy's official work has been entirely within the tropics—viz., in Borneo, Sierra Leone, the West Coast of Africa, the West Indian Islands, Hongkong, and Mauritius; and a governor who has never served in a temperate climate is considered to be entitled to more indulgence in regard to leave of absence in Europe than governors whose services have been in healthy climates. During his present leave he has been frequently consulted by the Secretary of State on the important questions connected with his government."

DURING Mr. Frandin's (French Consul) absence from Foochow, M. Leduc, Interpreter to the French Legation at Peking, will be in charge of the Portuguese Consulate at Foochow.

MADAME DROUIN, a *cantinière* of the 59th Regiment of the line, has been decorated with the Legion of Honour by the French Government, on the occasion of the national fête of the 14th of July.

ACCORDING to Manila papers a project has been set on foot for establishing a line of railway from Manila to Batangas, a distance of 115½ kilometres. The *Porvenir de Bisayas* estimates the cost at \$39,000 per kilometre.

WE are informed by the Agents (Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.) that the China Shippers' Mutual S. N. Co.'s steamer *Mayana*, from Glasgow and Liverpool, left Singapore for Hongkong this morning, and may be expected on or about the 25th inst.

THE Cunard steamer *Etruria*, which left New York at six p.m. on the 7th July, arrived at Queenstown at 3.30 a.m. on the 14th, Greenwich time, having performed the passage in six days, four hours fifty minutes. This is the fastest home run that has yet been made.

THE Hongkong Rifle Association's sixth "Spoon" Competition took place at Kowloon over the 500 yards range on Saturday afternoon, and resulted in the success of Sergt. Fricker, Northamptonshire Regiment, who totalled 30, defeating 27 opponents. Mr. E. L. Woodin, Sergt. Mann (Hongkong Police) and Mr. E. Robinson tied for second honors with 26. The weather was favorable and the shooting all round showed a decided improvement.

THE agricultural condition of Portugal is represented in a British consular report as most deplorable. The cultivation of wheat has been abandoned over large areas of the country, and the land has either been allowed to lie idle, or attempts, generally unsuccessful, have been made to substitute other crops. A commission appointed to examine into the matter say that, under existing conditions, it is impossible to raise wheat at a profit. The remedy proposed is an increase of the duties on foreign bread-stuffs, and a bill has been introduced in the Cortes for the purpose.

THE visit of Admiral Sir R. V. Hamilton and Inspector-General of Fortifications, Sir L. Nicholson to the Firths of Forth and Clyde, for the purpose of conferring with the local authorities in regard to the organization of measures for coast defence, has, the *L. & C. Express* says, been productive of the fact that men would undoubtedly be forthcoming in sufficient numbers if the Government provided the material of war, but we could never see good grounds for believing that the inhabitants of mercantile ports would contribute sufficient money to relieve the country at large of the duty of paying for the national defences. Not the least in importance among the many reasons why the Government should undertake the duty of defending our coasts and large estuaries is to be found in the circumstance that the views of influential persons, who are expected to lead the way in obtaining local subscriptions and organizing local schemes, are in many cases not in accordance with those of the highest military authorities in regard to how the necessary defences may best be secured.

ABOUT four o'clock yesterday morning a fire, caused, it is believed, by an incendiary, occurred in a washerman's shop, No. 86, Hollywood Road, occupied by Kut Fung. It originated on the first floor, and as the woodwork of these shops is always well dried, it soon spread both upwards and laterally. By the time the engines were up, the top-stories of one house on each side were burning, but the inmates had previously escaped by the back. Water was plentiful, and although the shop, which contained a quantity of European clothes that had been washed, could not be saved, the damage to Nos. 84 and 88 was confined to the top-storey of each. The occupant of No. 86 was afterwards arrested, on the information of a neighbour, who alleged that just before the fire broke out he saw a light in the house, and peeping through a crevice saw the prisoner saturate a pile of wood with kerosene, apply a light to it, and go out. The onlooker thereupon gave the alarm to the coolies who were asleep in No. 88, and running out, seized the incendiary and charged him with arson. Two assistants, however, made him let the man go. No. 86 was insured.

WE would strongly recommend our worthy contemporary the *Singapore Straits Times* not to pass any more opinions on the Chinese question in Australia—at all events until the writer of the article of the 9th inst. has acquired some slight knowledge of the subject. The man who asserts that the Australian people's argument as to the probability of the country "being swamped by Chinese" is "void of both truth and common sense" does not know what he is writing about. The Colonies have already been "swamped" with Mongolian emigrants, as the European tradesmen and laborers know to their cost, and a few years of free emigration of the kind the Straits Settlements boast of would practically place Australia in the hands of the Chinese. Both the United States and United Australasia have decided that the Chinese are a drawback to their general prosperity, and they are quite justified in protecting their own interests by excluding such undesirable colonists. The Straits Settlements doubtless require the assistance of Chinese emigrants—who in most cases are as near slaves as possible without having been bought and sold—to keep this greatly beleaguered dependency of Britain out of bankruptcy; while the United States and the Australasian Colonies are under the impression that they can rub along quite comfortably without the assistance of their yellow-skinned brothers. The *Straits Times* indulges in a chuckle of triumph that fifteen hundred more Chinese women were imported into the Straits Settlements last year than in 1886. Can our contemporary inform us how many of these were kidnapped from Canton and Hongkong, and how many were not specially imported as prostitutes?

THE Hongkong Rifle Association's third monthly competition for the Handicap Challenge-Cup will take place at the Military Range, Kowloon, on Saturday next at 5 p.m. Entries close to the Hon. Secretary (Mr. A. Shelton Hooper) not later than Friday the 24th inst.

OUR modern carcharodon, commonly called the shark, runs to as much as forty feet in length in moderately high north and south latitudes, which is a very respectable size for a denizen of the deep sea; his serrated and triangular teeth, of which he invariably possesses seven rows, close into each other from top and lower jaws much in the same way as a pair of shears, and measure two inches long by one and a half broad. But the naturalists of the *Challenger* expedition dredged up in numbers, from the ooze of the Pacific, similar teeth, five inches long by four wide, so that the sharks, to which they originally belonged must, by parity of reasoning, have measured nearly a hundred feet in length. Such monsters are now probably extinct, but about ten years ago in Callao bay, two kinds of monster fish made their appearance, which had never been seen there before. One kind looked like a turbot and was said to be 30 feet broad, while another species, of which one was harpooned and lanced by the boat's crew of a whaler lying in the bay, was towed ashore and carefully measured. It was fifty-four feet long, although his tail took up ten out of that number, and he measured eight feet across the mouth. The fish was like the ordinary white shark, or rhinodon, except that its head and mouth resembled the cod's; it had seven rows of teeth which were small and rather like minute fleshy excrescences than bone.

To get some comparison, says the *New York Mail and Express*, between the ideal of a woman's figure, as the Greek sculptors chiselled it, and the modern dressmaker and clockmaker regard it, one cannot do better than compare the proportions of the Medicean Venus with those of the professional models who exhibit fine goods for the sellers at the wholesale and retail stores. The Venus is 5 feet 5 inches in height, measures nearly 25 inches about the waist, 34 inches about the bust and 41 inches about the hips. The upper arm measures 13 inches and the wrist 6. From the base of the skull to the waist is between 14 and 15 inches. The approved dimensions for a cloak or dress model, as employed in most of the large city houses, do not differ from the Venus greatly in regard to height. Short women and tall women are needed in the retail stores, but a wholesale house exhibiting samples to a buyer will require a woman of about 5 feet 5 inches to display its choicest goods to advantage. Her other measurements will be about as follows: Waist, 23 inches, or sometimes 24; bust, 36 inches, or occasionally 37; hip measure from 45 to 47 inches; upper-arm measure, 11 inches; distance from base of skull to waist, 16½; and from shoulder to shoulder, 14½ inches. The modern measure approximates the Greek measure much more closely than it would have done twenty years ago. Sixty years ago there would have been very little comparison possible between the two. Where the dress-making models differ from the statuesque model the divergence can be traced accurately to the corsetage, which makes the waist rather smaller, the bust and hip considerably larger than they ought to be. It is the corset also which makes the waist look long. Lack of a sufficient amount of muscular exercise is responsible probably for the missing two inches in arm girth and the missing inch and a half in shoulder width. The professional models are as a rule among the most symmetrical women seen in the city as to measurements not specified, and in these respects approximate the Greek very nearly.

THE fire which occurred at No. 86 Hollywood Road at four o'clock on Sunday morning last would seem to have been the work of incendiaries. To-day at the Police Court before Mr. Sercombe-Smith three Chinese were charged with arson. A young Chinaman made the following statement:—"My name is Leung Kan and I work with my father as a tailor. We live in Hollywood Road. On the 19th inst. at 3.30 a.m. I was sleeping on a mat outside the house of the prisoner when a shower of rain coming on woke me up. On getting upon my legs I saw a chink in the shutters of No. 86 and peeping in noticed the 3rd prisoner, who is a cook in the shop, moving some pieces of firewood, and the 2nd prisoner, who is a coolie, pouring some fluid on the wood, which they then set fire to. The first prisoner was wrapping something up on the counter, which he soon took and threw on the fire; he then seized some books, and in company with the other two men hurried out of the shop by the front door. When he came out I got hold of him in order to hand him over to the police, but the other men made me let him go. They all ran away. The house was on fire, so I ran to tell the Police and in passing down the Gough Street steps I met the master of the shop. I said your shop is on fire. I gave the information to the police about the fire, and that evening on going into my father's house I saw the master of No. 86. He said to me, 'It is no use you going to the Court to give evidence against us; I will let you have a few dollars to drink tea.' I refused to take any money, because he frightened my mother so much in causing the fire. He kept asking me not to give evidence. On the 20th at 7 a.m. in the morning on going to my father's house I met the master of No. 86 coming down the stairs; he stopped me and wanted to know how much money I wanted. I refused to take any money; I said I had seen the Inspector who told me to be at the Police Court at a certain time to-day and I was going to be there. I am acquainted with the prisoners; I used to make purchases at their shop, which is a chandler's. The prisoners were arrested yesterday by the police on the charge of unlawfully and maliciously setting fire to their premises, and after hearing the above evidence the magistrate remanded the case till to-morrow at 10 a.m."

A MONUMENT has been raised in Paris to Sergeant Bobillot of the Tonquin Army of Occupation, who was mortally wounded while heroically defending Tuyen-quan during the war.

How his sufferings might have been eased.—Miss Quaverly (to dentist friend)—I have been reading a book about those brave martyrs. How shocking to burn that poor Latimer at the stake! His sufferings must have been excruciating. Dentist (absently)—Yes, but he might have taken laughing gas.

THE marriage between Major Fred. J. W. Davies Royal Munster Fusiliers, late Assistant Military Secretary to General Cameron, commander-in-chief of the forces in China and the Straits Settlements, and Minnie, adopted daughter of the late Mr. William Burnley Hume, of Winterton, Great Yarmouth, took place at Winterton on the 14th July.

SAVES the *London and China Express*.—Some time ago an English resident at Canton, Mr. Pitman, bought a curious monstrosity—a son with six legs. The front part of the body is simple, that is, the animal has one head, one thorax, and two front legs. Behind all the organs are double. M. Bézaure, the French Consul at Canton, persuaded Mr. Pitman to let him have this strange creature for the Paris Museum of Natural History, where it may now be seen. It is white, with great black spots, and appears to be in perfect health. The separation of the two trunks seems to begin after the dorsal vertebrae; but the animal is so fat that this cannot be precisely determined.

THE *Correio Macaense* publishes the following items of Portuguese legislation concerning the electoral rights of free citizens, and calls the Crown Attorney's attention to Governor da Costa's recent attempt at overruling and interfering with the votes of the inhabitants of Macao at the coming Municipal elections:—"Art. 145 of the Constitutional Charter of Portugal says that 'The inalienability of the civil and political rights of all Portuguese citizens, based on their individual liberty, security and property, is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Kingdom.' 'No citizen can be compelled to do or to abstain from doing anything unless by virtue of the laws.' Art. 5 of the Additional Act to the Constitution provides that 'Every Portuguese citizen who should be in the possession of a civil and political rights, is an elector.' Art. 11—'In every communal district, a Municipal Chamber exclusively elected by the people shall administer the municipal finances in conformity with the laws.' Art. 200 of the Penal Code rules that 'If any citizen be prevented by a tumult, by an act of violence, or by threats, from exercising his political rights, the criminal or criminals shall be punished with a term of imprisonment from three months to two years, and with deprivation of his or their political rights for five years.' Art. 136 of the Electoral law of 1854 provides that 'Those who by acts of violence or by threatening an elector with loss to his person, family or property, should induce or attempt to induce him to vote or to abstain from voting, shall be punished with from three months to three years imprisonment, and with a fine of from 50,000 to 1,000,000 milreis.' Art. 149—'To proceed against a Government employé of whatever rank or category, for the above crimes, permission from the Government is not necessary.' Finally, Art. 34 of the law of 23rd November, 1859 is to the following effect: 'Any authority, whatever may be his rank or category, who on the election day, under any pretext, or even by reason of public service, should cause an elector to absent himself from his circle and to remain out of it, shall be punished with a term of imprisonment from six months to three years, and with disability to exercise any public function for six years. The *Correio* then makes these very forcible remarks: 'It is a notorious fact that the penalties and provisions of the above mentioned laws are exactly applicable to the Governor of Macao who issued the order, to the Colonial Secretary who transmitted it, and to the Administrator, or Sheriff, who equally communicated it to his subordinates,—to the effect that any elector who should vote at the coming elections, would be discharged from office! This is simply shameful. In what country are we living? Can the Governor think of implanting in Macao the system adopted in Timor, whence he returned a short time ago? Does His Excellency imagine that to dissolve a Municipal Chamber does not entail heavy responsibilities?"

SUPREME COURT.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

(Before the Hon. J. Russell, Acting Chief Justice, and Mr. A. J. Leach, Acting Police Judge.)

THE Sessions were opened this morning, there being three cases for trial. The jurors summoned were Messrs. Donald McGrag, G. M. dos Remedios, E. B. Wolf, H. D. Hutchinson, C. D. Danenberg, Aaron S. Cohen, and C. F. Naudin.

GAROTTING.

Tsang Amiau was indicted for robbery with violence, in Queen's Road, on the 30th July.—Mr. Pollock prosecuted.—On the date named, Chan Chun, an accountant, in a pawnshop, was waiting along Queen's Road, near the Opium Farm, a little after eight o'clock, when the prisoner got hold of him behind, clapping his arms round the accountant's throat and half choking him. Another man who was with the garrotter called out "strike him," and a third man picked his pocket of a dollar. They then ran away, and Ching Chun followed them, keeping the prisoner in sight until he was arrested in a side street, by a watchman. Prisoner made a voluble defence, and "let it" to the jury. He said he was a sailor from—he forgot where. Found guilty on one-fifth of a second.

THE THIEF OF QUICKSILVER.

Ng Tuk, Chau Chan, Chau Ching, and Chau Wan, were charged for having stolen eight flasks of quicksilver, value \$500, after breaking and entering the godown of Messrs. Arnould, Karberg & Co., on the 13th July.—Mr. Pollock prosecuted.—During the night of the 13th ult. the door of the godown was forced, and shortly afterwards the prisoners were seen by some constables, near the Clock Tower, carrying two

heavy baskets. The constables stopped them, and as one ran away the other three were arrested. The runaway was afterwards found in a cock-loft. The evidence of the watchman pointed to collusion with the prisoners, one of whom occasionally worked at the godown. The prisoners protested their entire innocence. His Lordship commented on the cunning of the men in carrying the plunder away just at daybreak, when they were not likely to be asked for the passes, and when it would be easy to put their plunder on board a sampan and take it quickly away.—The foreman, without consulting the jury, at once found them guilty of receiving the stolen property.

THE ALLEGED POISONING CASE.

Leung Fun was indicted for unlawfully and maliciously administering a noxious drug to five coolies, on the 17th July.—Mr. Pollock prosecuted, and Mr. Francis, Q.C., defended. On the afternoon of the day in question the prisoner called at a shop on the Praya at Wanchai, and representing that he was a friend of the master's, was invited to eat. They gave him some stew, which he only took some rice with them. Afterwards the five men were taken ill, four becoming unconscious. The prisoner was accused of having poisoned the men, but denied it. After the removal of the sick men to the Hospital he was arrested, and the remainder of the food sent for analysis. Mr. Crow, analyst at the Government Hospital, found that flowers of *stauric* were present in the food. This was an alkaloid poison allied to atrophine, and was obtained from the wild thorn, which grows on the island, and which contains the same principle as belladonna. The evidence of the *sohks* who were poisoned suggested that the prisoner's object was to drug them, that he might obtain the money—\$41—which was kept in the shop.

Dr. Marques described the state of the men when brought to the Civil Hospital as being similar to that of persons who had been poisoned by stramonium.

The case was adjourned until to-morrow morning.

"RUDDIGORE" AT THE CITY HALL.

(BY OUR KAPTIOUS KRITICK.)

The production of "Ruddigore" Gilbert and Sullivan's latest novelty in the opera house line of business, by the American Musical Comedy and Opera Company, proved a tremendous draw on Saturday night, the Theatre Royal, City Hall, being crammed with about the best natured and most enthusiastic audience seen under such auspices (if somewhat awkwardly constructed) walls since the ever memorable performance of "Romeo" by my excellent friend the versatile and accomplished, if somewhat adipsate, Daniel Edward Trompeltower. There was, however, a difference between the two audiences—a considerable difference. When the Germano-Hebraic thunder and lightning tragedian, looking like a second Daniel Lambert, commenced to tell his Juliet—the young and lovely Beaudet—that it was "the lar-ruk" and not the nightingale that was kicking up such a demmed row outside Old Capulet's garden, critical Hongkong "rose to" Kamehameha's gilded knight—but it was with the full desire of holding out to the vile mutilator of Mr. Shakespeare's charming love pastoral. Saturday's congregation, on the contrary, howled themselves hoarse in their enthusiastic applause of Mesdames Hare, Morrison, and Leamington and their supporters, several bald-headed old "mashers" in the stalls and circles being especially demonstrative in the expression of their delight. Perhaps the fact that it was the farewell performance (for the present) of the American Musical Comedy and Opera Company may have to some extent contributed both to the largeness of the house and the general enthusiasm. However, Mr. Willard was doubtless thoroughly satisfied with his efforts to provide high class amusement for the Hongkong public so substantially supported, and on the other hand the public unmistakably showed their appreciation of what, all things considered, was an unusually enjoyable entertainment.

Having been specially brought out from the lunatic asylum, where I drag out a rather jovial existence, to criticise the American M. C. and O. Company and "Ruddigore," I mean to earn my handsome retainer and at the same time vindicate my claim to my *nom de plume*. And to be "kaptious" from the start, I would like to know for what reason, earthly or heavenly, the combination of *artifices* who have been in our midst for some weeks past are described as the "American Musical Comedy and Opera Company." To the best of my knowledge and belief not a single member of the troupe can claim America as his or her birthplace. Mr. Willard is English and Mr. Sheridan an ardent Home Ruler from the wilds of Tipperary; Mr. J. A. Robertson, the able conductor, hails from the land where Wallace bled and Burns sang, and Messrs. Fisher, Such, and Cripps, as well as the half-dozen ladies, are English. I wonder if the American flag has been hoisted under the impression that *artifices* announced as citizens of the "tarnal nation that can lick creation" are believed to be a superior article in opera and comedy to anything the old country can produce. That would be sailing under false colours and claiming a prestige to which they have no right; but such a notion is surely preposterous! And yet there must be some cause. Mr. Willard probably says that the Company is chartered by him and he is quite within his rights in giving it whatever title he thinks best. Just so; and I am also within my rights as a critic in expressing the opinion that to advertise a troupe of British professionals as an American Company is a senseless policy that cannot possibly do any good while it may easily enough have a contrary effect.

"Ruddigore" had not been performed in Hongkong until Saturday night, and consequently it was to some extent new to the vast majority of the audience. The space at my disposal will not allow me to follow "Brownie's" example and cut out two and a half columns of weak description from the *London Standard* "Just to fill up," but it will be expected that I should say something about a comic opera that has been generally discussed throughout the English-speaking world. My readers need not get alarmed; with my brevity is truly the soul of wit—especially when, as on this topic, there is so little to be said. "Ruddigore" was originally printed by "Ruddigore," but the author changed the "y" into an "i," a distinction without a difference, in order to quote the consciences of some good people who thought "red blood" a too suggestive title—as all the world knows, is the joint production of Mr. W. S. Gilbert and Mr. Arthur Sullivan, and if I remember rightly it was first performed at the Savoy Theatre, London. W. S. Gilbert, B.A., barrister-at-law, etc., for many years a leading light in the literary and dramatic worlds, is an Aberdonian who has solidly and satisfactorily demonstrated his ability to understand a joke and to appreciate humour without undergoing the usual surgical operation alleged to be necessary with his countrymen. "Gilbert" is author of the famous "Bab Ballads," which originally appeared in *Punch* and for nearly a quarter of a century—his first piece, "Dulcamara," was produced at the St. James' in 1866—he has been a most prolific and an

unprecedentedly successful writer for the stage. Sir Arthur Sullivan, *Bar. Cambridge*, Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, Knight of the Order of the House of Coburg, etc., is one of England's leading musicians, and too well known to require any further description at my hands. Somewhere about twelve years ago Gilbert and Sullivan collaborated and produced as the result of their joint labours a hair-raising musical tragedy entitled "Trial by Jury" which fairly took the theatrical world by storm. As it dealt with divorce and breach of promise matters, its phenomenal success was not so astonishing as it otherwise would have been. However, since 1876 Gilbert has been writing other similar operatic tragedies with wonderful perseverance, Sullivan supplying the music as the spirit moved him. "The Sorcerer" appeared in September 1877; "H.M.S. Pinafore" then sailed behind the footlights, followed by "The Pirates of Penzance," "Patience," "Iolanthe," "Princess Ida," and "The Mikado." And now we reach "Ruddigore."

It must be admitted that the whole of the works above enumerated have been put together with the skill of the thorough artist, aided by the practical knowledge of the experienced play-wright. The plots—if they may be so called—are cleverly designed, the dialogue epigrammatic and humorous, and the situations arranged for effect. Sullivan's music, if not so genial, is at least pretty and "catching," and it is not to be greatly wondered at if in his latest works he has repeated himself. "Ruddigore" may not be the worst of the Gilbert and Sullivan series, but it is a very long way from being the best. Admitting that Gilbert is as witty and amusing as ever, and that his grotesque conception of the "bold, bad Barons of Ruddigore" having to commit a crime daily on account of the witch's curse contains the elements of an effective story, yet there is a difficulty of grasping the author's true meaning which, with ordinary audiences, will always militate against complete success. The professional bridesmaids in the regions of their necks, the young lady whose every action in life is dictated by her little book on etiquette, and the family pictures walking from their frames, are all characteristic of Gilbert; and, of course, are admirable satires on modern society. My impression after a first hearing of Sullivan's music in "Ruddigore" is that it is principally a feeble rehash of some of his earlier works, many of the numbers forcibly reminding one of "The Sorcerer," "Patience," and "Pinafore."

Saturday night's performance of "Ruddigore," if not altogether faultless, was certainly a credit to the Company. Although evidently short of rehearsals, they played throughout with unusual vivacity and spirit, and with more combination than is their custom, while the light and sparkling character of the music, aided though it was, particularly pleased an audience that appeared to be specially out for enjoyment. Miss Maude Hare fairly won the honors of the evening as *May Rosalind*; she was in excellent voice and sang with admirable expression. In the duet with *Robin* in the opening scene Miss Hare played up to Mr. Sheridan with the skill of an experienced actress, and gave me the notion that this young lady with fair luck has a distinguished career before her.

Miss Eva Leamington has always been a favorite of mine—I hope the lady won't mind my saying so—as in every part in which she has appeared, whether important or insignificant, her work has been most conscientious. As *Dame Hannah* she was one of the prominent figures on Saturday night, her rendering of "the legend of the Mayday" being a feature of the performance. Miss Leamington's contralto organ is not a very powerful one, but it is pure and the lady has acquired the art of utilizing it to the best advantage. In the somewhat trying character of *Mad Margaret*, Miss Flo Morrison increased her reputation as a powerful and versatile actress; I am not sure whether I preferred her as a modern Ophelia or as the prim little Quakeress—she was capital in both.

It is with infinite pain and regret that I cannot find anything complimentary to say about the three professional bridesmaids, Mesdames Gracie Whiteford, Vera Patey and Nellie Arline. Their frocks—that is the proper word I believe—may have been all right according to Gilbert's instructions, but if so, these instructions should have been ruthlessly disregarded. The three professional bridesmaids looked exactly as if they were hump-backed; so much so that when *Zorah* was singing—and Gracie Whiteford can sing—her shoulders appeared at a higher altitude than her charming little face and with most comical effect. The next time you appear in "Ruddigore," ladies, let the waists of your frocks down to within something like a reasonable distance of that portion of your anatomy.

Mr. Charles Fisher's *Richard Dauntless* was far and away the most successful impersonation I have yet seen from the popular tenor, and stamps him in my mind as a "flyer" in the leading roles of this class of opera bouffe. His acting was full of life and animation, and his singing of the amusing musical ditty parodied the audience almost as much as the British cheer which "paralyzed the Parley-voo-Dye see." Mr. Fisher can dance a bit, and his few hornpipe steps elicited the most vociferous encore of the evening. Mr. A. Suich distinguished himself as *Sir Despard*, scoring heavily both as "the bold, bad Baronet" and as the severely respectable Quaker. His duet with Miss Morrison was one of the best things in the whole performance, and merited the hearty applause it received from all parts of the house.

A true artist and experienced Thespian like Mr. John F. Sheridan will always make a good show, no matter how difficult the position, and there can be no doubt that the talented "eccentric" comedian and character actor was heavily handicapped as *Robin Oakapple*, but he nevertheless accomplished his most difficult task with more than creditable success. I have already referred to the capital bit made in the "poor little man" duet, and it is only doing Mr. Sheridan justice to say that his efforts in the picture gallery mainly contributed to the performance running smoothly to the finish—for signs of "dragging" were not wanting in several instances. Mr. Imano as *Sir Rodric* sang with his usual power, his rendering of "When the night wind howls" being loudly applauded. Mr. W. Cripps made a good deal out of the comparatively small part of *Adam Cripple*, but he is entitled to an equal share of the honors for a capital rendering of the very melodramatic duet with *Robin* in the last act.

Mr. T. A. Robertson deserves special praise for his skillful conducting and accompaniments. This gentleman has a very quiet method, which has evidently been applied to the members of the Company with most satisfactory results.

The scenery in "Ruddigore" was equal to anything yet seen in Hongkong; the picture gallery, with its lime-light effects, being an especially noticeable feature.

And now for another and final word. During the Company's season in the colony some gentlemen have made a practice

of nightly sending in a lot of bouquets, which were piled up on and near the accompanist's seat, and presented by him during the performances to the various ladies for whom they were intended. It is not too much to say that this practice became a gross nuisance to persons who went to enjoy opera, or comedy which, but for the respect Hongkong audiences always show to lady performers, would have been quickly and unceremoniously brushed down. Nothing can be more annoying than to see the "run" of a piece interrupted by the a-se-less and meaningless proceeding of carting on the stage a dozen more or less clumsy ten-cent bouquets, and it is notorious that floral tributes are frequently handed to performers who have done nothing to deserve special recognition. One can understand a gentleman taking a bouquet with him to the theatre and at the termination of an act in which a fair artist has displayed exceptional merit and been recalled to the curtain, throwing it to her, but in the case I am referring to it was nothing unusual to see half a dozen or more bouquets, all carefully ticketed and addressed, carried in before the performance commenced. This nuisance reached a climax on Saturday when a German contingent arranged to combat the all-conquering Israelites as to which would make the biggest asses of themselves. The result was that the stage was literally crowded with floral tributes, one of which was as big as a large-sized Chinese umbrella. Which side won? I think it was a drawn battle.

The Company left for Shanghai by the English mail steamer *Cathay* this afternoon, with the hope they will have a successful season. They are due back here in October.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-second ordinary meeting held on Monday, the 3rd September, 1888, at 4 o'clock p.m.:

The Directors have now the pleasure to lay before the Shareholders a statement of the Company's Accounts for the year ended April 30th last.

The net premium earned amounts to \$699,740.46 and the working account shows a balance at credit of \$536,119.28 which sum the Directors recommended be appropriated in the following manner:—

A Dividend of 20 per cent. to Shareholders, \$120,000.00
A Dividend of 15 per cent. on Contributions, payable to all Contributors of business, whether Shareholders or not, \$105,000.00
To be transferred to credit of Reserve Fund, \$50,000.00
To be carried to New Account, \$261,119.28

The Reserve Fund with the above addition will amount to \$650,000.00.

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Mr. Grete has resigned his seat at the Board, and Mr. S. C. Michaelson of Messrs. Melchers & Co. has accepted an invitation to fill the seat so vacated.

This appointment will require the confirmation of the Shareholders.

Messrs. J. Thurnburn and J. S. Moses retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election.

The annexed accounts have been audited by Messrs. T. Arnold and H. U. Jeffries, who offer themselves for re-election.

L. POESNECKER, Chairman.

Hongkong, 20th August, 1888.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL, 1888.

Assets.
Cash in hand \$103,460.27
Fixed Deposits with Banks 465,000.00
Invested in Mortgages of Properties 312,000.00
Bonds of Chinese Imperial Government Loan, 1884 212,500.00
Bonds of Chinese Imperial Government Loan, 1876 53,475.22
London Branch—
Cash in hand \$11,345.54
Fixed Deposits with Banks 74,281.71
India 31 per cent. Stock 25,940.48
India 41 per cent. Stock 20,165.36
India Railways (guaranteed Stock) 51,076.19
Cape of Good Hope 5 per cent. Loan 28,571.43
Victoria 4 per cent. Loan 28,571.43
South Australia 4 per cent. Loan 28,571.43
Remittance in transit 17,149.86
Melbourne Branch—
Cash in hand, in course of collection, and on Fixed Deposit 191,712.52
Sydney Branch—
Cash in hand, in course of collection, on Fixed Deposit, Furniture at Head Office and Branches 57,645.17
Policy Stamps 1,500.00
Interest accrued, but not yet payable 17.70
Interest on Loans 19,462.68
Premiums Uncollected 3,695.14
Due from Agencies \$13,841.12
Less due to Agencies 2,118.76
12,722.36
\$1,751,861.46

Liabilities.
Capital Subscribed \$1,000,000
Amount paid-up \$600,000.00
Reserve Fund 600,000.00
Dividends Outstanding 15,742.18
Profit and Loss Account 536,119.28
\$1,751,861.46

WORKING ACCOUNT.
To Losses \$377,568.28
Charges, Commissions, &c. 115,506.85
Survey Fees 7,044.42
Directors' and Auditors' Fees—
Head Office and Branches 11,694.59
Bad Debts 50.09
Exchange 10,705.55
Write off Furniture 500.00
Balance to Profit and Loss Account 536,119.28
\$1,059,189.06

By Premia, less Re-insurances and Return Premia \$699,740.46
Interest 97,159.13
Profit realised on sale of Foreign Property 23,840.00
Transfer Fees 351.00
Spa. Gull. 118.43
Surplus Amount brought forward from last year 245,540.04
\$1,059,189.06

By Balance on 30th June, 1888, \$600,000.00
By Balance on 30th June, 1887, \$600,000.00
Hongkong, 31st July, 1888.

We have compared the above Statements with the Bloks, Vouchers, and Securities of the Company, and found the same correct.

T. ARNOLD, Auditors.
H. U. JEFFRIES, Auditors.

NEWS BY THE INDIAN MAIL.

We are indebted for the subjoined items to our Calcutta exchanges received by the Indo-China steamer *Hingang*, Capt. A. de St. Croix, which arrived in harbour this morning.

SIMLA, July 30th.

Yesterday afternoon, a serious accident occurred on the Mall. A pony being ridden by Lieutenant Rooke, of the Yorkshire Regiment, bolted, and after knocking down a jhampani threw its rider. Lieutenant Rooke was terribly smashed and his face disfigured beyond recognition. He was removed to hospital, and did not recover consciousness for some hours. The jhampani has since died.

MADRAS, August 1st.

It is rumoured in mercantile circles that another line of steamers will probably be calling at Madras soon. P. and O. steamers will only call for a short time for passengers.

RESERVE FUND.
To Balance on 30th June, 1888, \$600,000.00
By Balance on 30th June, 1887, \$600,000.00
Hongkong, 31st July, 1888.

A. S. GARFITT, Acting Secretary.

We have compared the above Statements with the Bloks, Vouchers, and Securities of the Company, and found the same correct.

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POONA, August 1st.

The Crawford Case, commenced before Mr. Vidal, Magistrate, to-day, Mr. Little, Government Solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr. Anderson, barrister, of Bombay, instructed by Mr. Lynch, solicitor, defended. Mr. Little applied for a fortnight's postponement, as Government were not prepared with evidence. Mr. Anderson, in opposition, the application, remitted the proceedings of Government were extraordinary. That one of the highest officials should be suspended, and that, after three weeks, Government were unable to bring evidence, and that the Government, however, should refuse to inform Mr. Crawford of what he stands accused, and of the accused's name, was a scandal. The accused had a right to be tried immediately, as no *prima facie* evidence had been produced for a postponement.

The Magistrate granted an adjournment till the 16th August, on condition that the prosecution should be fully prepared with the evidence on that day against Mr. Crawford.

ZANZIBAR, August 1st.

Messengers report that in April last Emin Bey's provisions were scarce, and the Mahdists advancing against him. Emin hoped to repel them by a rapid attack. There is nothing fresh regarding Stanley.

PARIS, August 2nd.

France has rejected the Treaty of Commerce with Italy.

LONDON, August 2nd.

Terrific storms have swept over England, accompanied by rains, particularly in the eastern part of London. The crops are seriously damaged.

DURBAN, August 2nd.

It is rumoured that Dinuluzi has yielded.

POONA, August 2nd.

Captain Hanwell, a member of the Western India Turf Club, is prosecuting Ahmed, a native jockey, for defamation. The case commenced yesterday before the Cantonment Magistrate, and is brought up in respect of the defendant wrote to the Western India Turf Club, saying that the complainant told him to pull a horse while riding at the Poona Six Races on the 3rd February last. Complainant says he told the defendant to ride straight, and not pull the horse.

D. Gay, Secretary to the Western India Turf Club, was examined, and said he received a letter from Ahmed, alleging that Captain Hanwell had told to stop the horse, which, if true, would amount to a dishonest act.

Major Smythe, who also rode in the race, which was called the Dealer's Race, was examined, and said he did not see Captain Hanwell tell Ahmed to stop back. Dr. Druce and Captain Payne, who were also examined, said they did not hear Captain Hanwell tell Ahmed to stop back.

Captain Street, Brigade Major here, has met with a serious accident at polo.

MADRAS, August 2nd.

Ross, the defendant in the celebrated adultery case, has obtained leave to prosecute Rhodes Morgan for perjury during the trial.

LONDON, August 3rd.

In pursuance of a motion by Mr. Smith, the remaining clauses of the Local Government Bill (which had not passed through Committee on the 17th ultimo) were put and adopted without a division at one o'clock in the morning, after an acrid debate.

POONA, August 3rd.

Ahmed, the jockey, was examined, and acknowledged having written a letter to the Secretary of the Turf Club. Captain Hanwell told him to hold back the horse. Ultimately Ahmed offered an apology to Captain Hanwell, which was declined. The case will come on Monday.

ROME, August 3rd.

Italy has notified to the Powers that her flag has been hoisted at Zula, south of Massowah, and that her protectorate has been proclaimed.

PARIS, August 3rd.

M. Goblet, in a note to the Powers, states that Italy has not observed the rules of the Berlin Conference with regard to the acquisition of Massowah. Signor Crispien's circular was the first intimation of its occupation by the Italians. Consequently the capitulations were in force till that time.

DURBAN, August 4th.

The surrender of Dinuluzi, which was rumoured here, is untrue. He is believed to have fled to the Transvaal.

ALLAHABAD, August 4th.

The *Pioneer* has a telegram from London stating that Lord Lansdowne sails about the middle of November. It is understood that Lord Dufferin awaits Lord Lansdowne's arrival, unless European complications require his presence at Rome.

The news of the massacre of an Afghan *hijra* by Shinwaris has greatly exasperated the Amir, who has ordered General Gholam Hyder to advance the instant reinforcements reach him.

LONDON, August 4th.

The report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the Deccan Mining Company's case last night. The report shows that the Company has now about 700 shareholders, and that 85,000 fully paid-up shares were issued, of which 55,000 were sold to the public. The Committee does not express any opinion regarding the prospects of the Company, but mentions 150 tons of coal raised weekly and the fine diamonds found. The Committee absolves Lord Lawrence, as it is of opinion that he acted in perfect good faith. It admits the competency of the Company to transfer shares to the concessionaries, but doubts whether the same was the result contemplated by the Nizam's advisers. It suggests that the British Government might have given to the Nizam more effective advice and assistance. The Committee does not doubt the expediency of working the coalfields, &c.

August 6th.

All the Powers except France have favourably received Signor Crispien's circular regarding Massowah.

AN IRRESPONSIBLE POLITICIAN.

Sir Charles Dilke is a very able man, and he is eminently practical. All the time he was a member of the House of Commons few representatives of the people had a more thorough grasp of any public question they talked about than had the member for Chelsea. But it is only reasonable to suppose that the somewhat luckless baronet does not know everything, and it would seem that he has yet something to learn in regard to naval questions. In the pages of the *Universal Review*, as well as in other magazines, Sir Charles has been saying a good deal lately about Naval matters which will hardly stand a critical analysis, although he is perhaps quite right in demanding that we ought to have in ironclads, ship for ship, an equal number to those of France and Russia combined. The reasons for this alleged necessity are generally recognised. We have common interests at stake in all parts of the world—certainly far greater than those of the two nations just named. We have a merchant fleet twenty times as numerous as that of France, and yet our navy is barely superior to the magnificent fleet of ironclads which fly the tricolour. What we require is a navy which shall be competent to fight those of France and Russia, as well as to clear the seas of their fast cruisers, and so protect our valuable commerce. We should make up our minds to do as the great economist Cobden recommended, spend £1,000,000,000 on our Navy in order to ensure us the supremacy of the sea. It would seem that a time is approaching when we may have to do this in a very inconvenient and undignified hurry. In all this it is easy to follow Sir Charles Dilke, but when he comes to other matters, such as the mistake said to have been made in giving up Port Hamilton, we are not with him. He regards that proceeding as a surrender to Russia, but without having first found out that the Government had, before acting, taken the opinions of those Admirals and senior officers who were lately employed on the China Station. Admirals Sir R. Vesey Hamilton and others, were dead against keeping the island, and considered it a worthless possession, from a naval point of view. In the opinion of these veteran officers an attack on Vladivostok was an operation which the British Navy would undertake in the event of an affair with Russia, and one which could be carried to a successful issue without the possession of Port Hamilton; in fact, their conviction was, that with our flag flying there, the possession would rather impede than assist a forward movement. On the 7th January, 1886, Admiral Wiles wrote to the Admiralty that he went to Port Hamilton several times during his command in China, and still held the opinion which he then formed, that the place is useless and expensive ordinary peace time, and in war would be a source of weakness. The Admiral in command would have to detach some of his ships to defend the port instead of employing them in other ways and for the protection of our commerce. It has been said that if England did not take Port Hamilton some other nation would, but a short study of the chart and a few minutes' reflection will show that this idea is absurd. Only the nation which "commands the sea" can hold Port Hamilton, for the islands are perfectly barren. It is supposed that in war a coaling station in the northern part of the China Sea would be necessary, but Admiral Wiles was not of that opinion. Steamers properly fitted must be fitted with Welsh coal at Hongkong, and follow our ships. On these and other considerations, the Admiral recommended the islands being given up to their rightful owners, and forthwith, which in this matter at least, Sir Charles Dilke's opinions will carry but little weight when set against the practical knowledge of the naval advisers to the Government.

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